



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center and Gardens
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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer

DATE: May 7, 2008

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item V(k): Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into a Project Agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for the use of Prop A Excess funds, for parcels in Los Angeles County Chapter 8 Agreements 2531, 2535, 2571, and 2592, and authorizing the acquisition of parcels in Chapter 8 Agreement 2592, using public, private, and in-lieu mitigation funds, Soledad Canyon, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing entering into a Project Agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for the use of Prop A Excess funds, for parcels in Los Angeles County Chapter 8 Agreements 2531, 2535, 2571, and 2592, and authorizing the acquisition of parcels in Chapter 8 Agreement 2592, using public, private, and in-lieu mitigation funds, Soledad Canyon, unincorporated Los Angeles County.

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) commonly enters into Chapter 8 Agreements with Los Angeles County to acquire tax defaulted properties. The MRCA has acquired over 1,500 acres through this process.

The County Treasurer and Tax Collector has provided an Agreement to sign. Chapter 8 Agreement Number 2592 contains four parcels totaling 83.75 acres in Soledad Canyon. In order for the County Treasurer and Tax Collector to finalize these agreements, the MRCA must provide a resolution authorizing the acquisition of the parcel. The proposed action provides the Treasurer and Tax Collector with the authorization they need to continue processing an agreement.

The table below includes the parcels, sizes, general location, and current cost to the MRCA. The cost estimate is projected through May 2008. Unfortunately, the cost of

the parcels increases substantially every year as penalties and back taxes increase. That rate of increase is approximately 1.5 percent per month, for a total of 18 percent annually. A brief description of the parcel follows along with attached aerial photograph with the parcel boundaries.

The acquisition and funding of parcels in Agreements 2531, 2535, and 2571 have been approved by the MRCA Governing Board on June 6, 2007; December 5, 2007; and November 7, 2007 respectively. Maps of those parcels (close up and context) are attached.

Agreement Number 2592

APN	Acreage	Location	Price
3209-021-018	10.00	Soledad Canyon-Near Arrastre Canyon	\$17,108
3210-008-023	5.53	Soledad Canyon- CAPP Core	\$29,944
3210-008-031	60.65	Soledad Canyon- CAPP Core	\$672,659
3210-010-002	7.57	Soledad Canyon- CAPP Core	\$20,982
Totals	83.75		\$740,693

Soledad Canyon

These large parcels are proximate to existing MRCA parcels on the north side of Soledad Canyon. One parcel, 3210-008-023 connects Briggs Road with a large set of MRCA properties to the east in Long and Nellus Canyons. Parcel 3210-008-031 is quite large for a Chapter 8 parcel at 60 acres. It contains substantial blue line drainage that is tributary to Soledad Creek. Parcel 3210-010-002 connects the large 60 acre parcel with an existing MRCA parcel to the west. Parcel 3209-021-018 contains a drainage that feeds into a fork of Arrastre Creek which then feeds into the Upper Santa Clara River.

The Soledad-Angeles Linkage Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP) project is focused on the protection of an adequate habitat linkage system between the Angeles National Forest south of State Route (SR) 14 (San Gabriel Mountains) and the part of the national forest north of SR 14 (Sierra Pelona-Castaic-Sierra Madre ranges). Three of these properties fall within the boundaries of the CAPP. In addition, the protection of rare and endangered species habitat in the Santa Clara

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River and its tributaries were, and still are, a primary focus.

The 5th District Supervisor's Office has approved the use of "Big Five" Prop A Excess Funds to acquire all of the subject parcels.